

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Ian Brown
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Email: sturmerpc@gmail.com

72 St. Edmunds Fields
Dunmow
Essex, CM6 2AN

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY 09 APRIL 2019 at 7:45 PM**, doors opened at 7:15pm for refreshments

MINUTES

APA01	NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr David Finch, James Cleverly, MP, Cllr Mcleod-Jones and Cllr Taylor
APA02	WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN Cllr Garrod welcomed those assembled and laid out the agenda for the evening, made a special welcome to the Community Police Officers, PC Craig Wheeler and PC Andy Pilgrim (plus a trainee) who had purposefully interrupted their patrol this evening to present a short overview of their work prior to heading back out on patrol. It was agreed to alter the Agenda order to allow the Officers to speak first.
APA03	APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MAY 2018 RESOLUTION – Minutes approved - Proposed Cllr Garrod, Seconded Cllr Carter
APA04	COMMUNITY POLICING PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY Q&A SESSION PC Wheeler presented a short overview of the scope of their work as a Community Policing Team, the geographical area they perform those duties (Braintree District) plus the resources at their disposal in terms of manpower with two additional PCSO's and seven Special Constables in training; which training consumes approximately 100 hours a month. The Team employ the power and immediacy of social media to both remain in contact with their communities whilst encouraging them to use the medium to report any matters that need bringing to the Team's attention. Wherever possible the Community Teams try to engage with parishes through community events and schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and SpeedWatch; this parish has benefitted from four recent visits from the Team to support the local SpeedWatch group, resulting in cautions and tickets. Attending and contributing to local events, receiving community feedback all helps inform their duties and areas of focus. Rural crimes, such as Hare Coursing, burglary and antisocial behaviour formed part of their focus; where and when possible visiting communities to offer a range of security advice, utilising local papers to name and shame persistent antisocial behaviour offenders and working with land owners to combat and apprehend those involved in illegal activities.
APA05	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS Dist Cllr Diana Garrod – Full report can be seen at APPENDIX A
APA06	CHAIRMANS REPORT Cllr Garrod report – APPENDIX B
APA07	CLERK'S REPORT Full report can be seen at APPENDIX C

APA08	PRESENTATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS WOMENS INSTITUE – Sylvia – APPENDIX D STURMER VILLAGE HALL – Mrs Jo Porth – APPENDIX E STURMER HISTORY GROUP – Mrs Linda Bevan – APPENDIX F TREE WARDEN – Mrs Jo Porth – APPENDIX G
APA09	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TBC CLOSE – 9:19pm

Signed.....Dated.....

APPENDIX A

Bumpstead Ward
Braintree District Councillors’ Report
2018-2019



As your District Council Representative for the parishes within the Bumpstead Ward, I provide a bridge of communication between Parish Councils, businesses, community groups and residents and the District Council.

The last year has been both interesting and challenging for all at local government level. Funding from central government is being reduced in a number of areas and by 2020 the Council will no longer receive the revenue support grant. We have therefore needed to find £8.6 million pounds of savings since 2010, but by a proactive approach and careful investments we have generated £4.4 million of additional income and have also announced a £100 million investment boost to the District. We have developed our Commercial and Investment Programme generating income and savings through a number of actions to reinvest in our front line services and those which matter most to our residents. Braintree Council has an excellent track record and has again received the externally assessed Customer Service Excellence Standard for the fourth consecutive year, demonstrating the high standard of customer service provided.

Investment is planned into the Millennium Way Slip Roads to ease congestion at Galleys Corner in Braintree, where we have secured £10 million external funding. We are aiming to regenerate Braintree Town Centre and have plans for a bus interchange, 70 bed hotel, 35 residential units, car park, Livewell Hub, café and enhanced public open space. We have also prepared spatial plans for the improvements to Halstead Town Centre. We have completed the acquisition of a strategic employment site at Great Notley providing additional land to support business growth and create up to 2,000 jobs and completed the transfer of the Sible Hedingham work hub providing accommodation for start-up businesses more locally. We have launched the District Tourism Plan to support the growth of the visitor economy to encourage

visitors to our beautiful villages such as this one within the Bumpstead Ward. One example is the work done with the friends of Bocking Windmill to develop it as a heritage attraction for the district.

Sadly, child exploitation is something to be aware of in our district and the Council has sought to raise awareness through providing training to licensed premises and taxi drivers through the 'Spot-it, Stop-it' campaign. We have also delivered a domestic abuse campaign highlighting the support available to both victims and perpetrators.

To ensure that our environment remains a good place to live, work and play, we have installed fencing and bollards to protect some of our larger open spaces from unauthorised access and illegal encampments. We have worked with other Essex Councils and the University of Essex on a number of initiatives to gain a greater understanding of residents' recycling habits and encourage residents to minimise their waste and recycle more. We currently achieve a recycling rate of 50.9%. We have removed over 800 fly tips within 24 hours of being reported and served over 80 fixed penalty notices and prosecuted 12 residents in relation to littering, dog fouling and fly tipping to keep the district looking clean and tidy. Additionally, we have launched a litter reduction campaign aimed at social media and younger audiences and provided a seven day cleaning programme in Town Centres including litter picking, bin emptying and sweeping.

We are a growing district and have granted planning permission for over 1200 dwellings supporting the delivery of much needed housing, this has not been without problems as some developers are reluctant to start work. However, we have enabled the delivery of 154 affordable homes and will continue to fight against appeals for inappropriate development from speculative developers.

We have approved funds to develop up to five council-owned sites to deliver new mixed tenure homes across the district and have prevented over 200 households from becoming homeless.

Health and communities are of significant importance to our residents and in response to this need we have expanded the Handyperson Scheme to help disabled and frail residents lead more independent lives. Additionally, we have established a monthly shopper bus trip supporting rural villages that no longer have access to a public transport route. We have introduced a number of activities to benefit those living with dementia and their carers such as dementia friendly cinemas, tea dances, swimming and walks.

The Councillor Community Grant has seen funding supplied of just over £104,000 and this year I have personally overseen funding to Steeple Bumpstead Congregational Church for a new boiler, Steeple Bumpstead Bowls Club for a carpet storage unit, Birdbrook Parish Council for a village sign, Sturmer Parish Council for a leaf blower and Helions Bumpstead Parish Council to restore a 1960's caravan for their community. I am really pleased to undertake this work and help with issues affecting my local area with like-minded people in this lovely corner of Essex.

Cllr. Diana Garrod

District Councillor – Bumpstead Ward – Braintree District Council

cllr.dgarrod@braintree.gov.uk

APPENDIX B

Sturmer Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Annual Parish Assembly 9th April 2019

The Parish Council has carried out a number of activities during the last year and have met with some frustrations. In particular, footpaths have been problematic. Reports of some being overgrown, ploughed up and finger posts removed. We have of course reported these to Essex County Council Highways Department, but to no avail so far. Equally, the severed lamp at Abbots Court has been reported on numerous occasions but we have no date for rectification. We will persevere. However, the severed lamp near the roundabout, which was damaged in an RTA some three years ago, was eventually replaced in November 2018 after a great deal of persistence.

The last ROSPA Play Safety Report was published in May 2018 for the Pocket Park. Equipment was assessed for compliance with the appropriate standards. Compliance with these standards is not mandatory in law, but it is useful to know whether items comply or not. The surface areas around the play slide and rocker reported some slipperiness due to algae; placing the surface at a medium risk. This was rectified by cleaning. All other items within the play area scored a risk score of 'as low as possible'. The Pocket Park area has received some vandalism to a tree guard, signage and beneath the roof of the Youth Shelter. The Parish Council has recently received funding from Tesco for the Pocket Park, and has received £1000. This

is not quite enough to spend on another piece of play equipment and the Council will be giving this consideration in the near future.

An application was made to the Local Highways Panel for an additional bus shelter in April 2018 and this was recently installed at a cost of around £12,000. Also a 'Slow Down Sub-Plate' to the existing Vehicle Activated Sign was installed in September 2018 at a cost of £1,416.00. The Council has also applied to improve the current footway and install dropped crossing with tactile paving at the Hill Lane junction. A feasibility study was returned and it is suggested that the most suitable option would cost around £69,000 with no date being offered as yet. The request for 30mph roundels to be painted on the road at the entrance and exit to the village, together with the current gateway signage to indicate that it is a Speed Watch village are both in the validation process.

In response to residents and the Speed Watch group, a request for a Vehicle Activated Sign in centre of the village was made. A speed survey was carried out at a cost of £200 and the results indicated that the Average Daily Speed was recorded at 32.8mph.

A VAS would not be recommended in this location the guidance states that average speeds should be 35mph or above before they look to install traffic calming features. An engineer also visited site a little while ago now and deemed this the only appropriate location to be able to install an additional VAS as there are already two one either end of the village. I am delighted that, after some considerable time, both 30mph signs at the New England side of the village have been replaced, which raises the profile of our village at its entrance.

I would like to mention that after three years as founder and co-ordinator Linda Bevan is stepping down from the Speed Watch group, the council would like to take this opportunity to give their grateful thanks for Linda's services to the community and look forward to working with the remaining members of the group in the future.

The Parish Council has commented on a number of planning applications and I often receive emails from residents about this subject. All details are available on the Sturmer website and Braintree District Council. The appeal for 7 bungalows at land west of Crunch Croft was dismissed and the appeal for 16 dwellings at The Old Orchard Paddock started in January 2019 remains ongoing. We find it somewhat disappointing that the development at Wheel Chase remains incomplete, in particular the road is troublesome. I have spoken with residents and have tried to assist them. However, this remains problematic as it is a private development with a Maintenance Company.

The Parish Council was successful in their application for the Councillors Community Grant and this was spent on a leaf blower which is mainly used within the Pocket Park and Amenity Walk. This has been added to the Assets Register. I think you will all agree that this area is now looking absolutely splendid. A tree has come down recently and this will be removed in due course.

An Environmental Policy has been provided to ensure that our village remains in a highvalue and cared for landscape setting and to ensure that our suppliers and contractors operate in an environmentally appropriate manner. Also a Financial Reserves Policy was introduced. Financial Reserves shall be set aside on an annual basis to provide the Council with financial stability. Since the tax base of Sturmer Parish Council is small, a modest change in the budget in any one year may have a disproportionate effect on the precept. This Reserves Policy is intended to minimise that effect. This can be viewed on the Parish Councils' website.

The Open Spaces Action Plan has been updated, this is a key document used by the Local Planning Authority to justify seeking S.106 monitory contributions for Public Open Space improvements across the district.

It is important that the document is kept up to date, in order to provide the best opportunity to improve open areas within the parish.

Our Emergency Plan has also been updated this year and submitted to the District Council for registration. I would like to give my grateful thanks for those who have agreed to contribute should an emergency occur.

Our Lighting Contract has been renewed with A & J Lighting and a quote for the replacement of 10 lamps to LED is £5,565.60. An offer of funding has been received to the value of £2,000 from the Dedham Vale AONB, which would leave the remainder for the Parish Council to find. No decision has been made on this as yet, but other funding opportunities are being researched to see if the shortfall can be found.

The Parish Council takes part in the Rough Sleeper Survey which seeks to identify the number of rough sleepers on one given night and submit the findings to the District Council. We had a rough sleeper in September and I spoke with him a few times before he moved towards Haverhill. He explained that he had come from Cambridge, where he found it unpleasant.

The Village Green is situated next to the former Woodlands Hotel in Coupals Road. It was brought to our attention that the hotel site is for sale. However, the Council owns a strip of land in front of the entrance and is seeking to negotiate an arrangement with either West Suffolk Council, who currently own the site, or the potential new owners. Negotiations are in the early stages and the parish will be informed and consulted in due course.

I would like to remind everyone that the Parish Council is comprised of six volunteers who are passionate about the upkeep of Sturmer and want to ensure that services are maintained. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their efforts. Also other village voluntary groups who go to great lengths to provide outings, entertainment, fun activities and support for our parish. Your contribution is both welcome and valued.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Chairman – Sturmer Parish Council

APPENDIX C

Clerk's Report – Annual Parish Assembly 09 APRIL 2019

Well they did it again these wise stewards of your money came in within budget, which for a small parish with small pockets that is not always so easy to achieve.

We started this financial year back in April 2018 with £12,600 in the Bank and ended the year with £13,800 in the Bank, and whilst that sounds good it does not tell the whole truth, because we did not spend on some of the things we budgeted for and will now probably do so this financial year.

In 2018-19 we budgeted to spend some £11,000 which included a grant of just under £800 to the village hall, which is a sizeable % of the parish council's income.

Your precept for the year was still low at just over £7,000.

Your precept for this financial year is £7,900, in common with all parish councils, we have lost the entire LOCALISM GRANT FUNDING which last year was an additional **£480** and this year will be zero!

Your council were recently successful in winning a grant of £1,000 via Tesco's so a big pat on the back to them for achieving that – money to be used on new piece of play equipment for the Pocket Park but even that requires us to raise or find over an additional £1,500 before that becomes a reality.

They also enjoyed a small grant from their District Councillor which covered the cost of a Leaf-blower which I understand gets plenty of use. We still rely heavily on the volunteer labour of the councillors to physically do a great deal of the work around the parish, which cannot be sustained forever. There will come a time when that work needs a paid contractor, or community volunteers or simply not get done.

WHERE WE SPENT MONEY in very round numbers – ADMINISTRATION of the PARISH, Hall hire, Insurance, Training, Affiliation costs, stationery, Grants and PAYE has cost approx. £6,000

PARISH MAINTENANCE - accounts for another £2,000, Street lighting, Utilities, Grass cutting and any other general parish maintenance; as I mentioned earlier this is highly subsidised by volunteer labour and thus the true cost is hidden.

TO SUMMARISE –

You have heard about some of the achievements from your Chairman, the council would like to pursue installing LED street lighting across the parish which comes with a price tag of some £4,600 of which we might be successful in winning 50% grant funding if we act swiftly. The other 50% may well have to come from reserves unless we can secure further funding.

So there remains pressure on what are small, finite resources which are spread thin but your council will undoubtedly attempt to stretch them as far as possible to achieve as much as possible for the community.

Ian Brown
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

APPENDIX D

Women's Institute

Sturmer and District WI
Report for Sturmer Annual Parish Assembly 09/04/2019

2018 saw the celebration of our 50th anniversary, reforming in 1968 and becoming part of the Suffolk West Federation of WI's.

Suggested by the WI movement because of the distance from Sturmer to the Essex county office, then in Chelmsford.

What a golden year we had, many excellent speakers, topics from the life of Coco Chanel to Music-hall Memories, a very moving talk on the History of the Foundling Hospital from one of the last residents of the Coram homes to the history of Knickers.

Visits to gardens, the pantomime and on the most wonderful summer evening when we literally took to the skies, Golden Gliding at Ridgewell Airfield an amazing opportunity to view our beautiful landscape from above.

November, the month in which we re-formed, was party night the village hall full with members, past members and guests enjoying a meal and entertainment.

Many members take part in Suffolk West Federation visits and learning days, we have climb the tower at the Bury St. Edmunds cathedral, enjoyed and walk and talk at the Rougham Estate, a brilliant day in Norwich to see stage performance of Calendar Girls, learnt needle-felting, Christmas crafts, made polymer clay jewellery.

We are a happy group, and it is not just us who thinks so, many visitors return to enjoy our company and friendship.

We meet at Sturmer Village Hall on the second Monday of the month and a warm welcome is extended to all.

We are very pleased to find we have attracted new members in the past year, I think our range of activities and speakers that we arrange every month reflects this. We are visiting Spencers Garden this May to see the very old , very long beautiful Wisteria and enjoy a lovely cream tea which I can recommend. Last year we visited another local garden, Fullers Mill, we do enjoy our group educational outings. We have excellent craft days here in Sturmer Village Hall organised by W.I. members from Suffolk West Federation based at Park Farm near Bury St. Edmunds.

They organise lots of events all around the County for drama, current affairs, art and cookery, so whatever your interests you can find something to inspire you, that is what W.I. does.

It is also an interesting group of women in the community that you can make friends with and exchange views on a wide range of topics. W.' also gives you confidence to enable you to take on rolls in the organisation at local, County, and National level, as well as in your community.

W. I. National produce a magazine W.I. Life which is distributed to all W.I. members and every Federation have their own informative news, ours is Suffolk West W. I. News which all Sturmer members receive and enjoy reading about other W. I's.

Every year we have resolutions that are put forward by members and discussed usually about 12, which are then reduced to three resolutions that are put forward. At our meeting we discuss and vote on them, as do all W.I's nationally. Whichever are selected by votes are then acted upon by National to lobby groups , businesses and the government to bring about the required changes and further action needed to support the resolution passed.

So it is a local thriving group of women you can join for friendship, fun and enjoyment as well as being part of a vibrant national organisation with a wonderful reputation and standing in the country and at local level.

Sylvia Allworthy Sturmer & District W.I. Officer

Sturmer Village Hall Charity
Registered Number 262450
Report 2018/19
Annual Parish Assembly
09/04/2019

The use of the hall has increased over the past year, as well as the regular users, Carpet Bowls, WI, Parish Council, the History group for exhibitions and Victorian school re-enactment and continued use by the Yoga class, Silver Swans and Old Tappers, we now have Pilates classes three times a week and St. Mary's Church Sturmer has made use of the hall during the winter months, this has allowed them to serve refreshments and make use of the screen and projector.

Suffolk West Federation of WI's have used the hall for many craft days.

The hall is to be used for the District/Parish Elections on 2 May and has been provisionally booked for European Elections on 23 May. In addition there have been many private hirings.

All these bookings require the hall to be kept in good repair and clean, a task that increasingly falls upon the trustees, many prospective hirers are taken aback to find those steam cleaning the floors and cleaning the toilets are in fact the trustees!

The Village Hall Charity held many events throughout 2018.

The Fun Run and Walk held in May, was most successful, if exhausting, 47 runners and walkers took part, our thanks to Haverhill Running Club for their help and to Gryphon First Aid for providing first aid cover. Our thanks to the Porth family for cutting, clearing, mowing and preparing the course which was mostly run through their land, land which of course is usually 'off course'. Money for the medals £137.50p was taken, with their permission, from the community fund held by the village hall for Sturmer Fayre Committee, almost all monies collected went on the licence and expenses, the profit raised, £159.50p, was from the refreshments sold, our thanks to all trustees for their baking skills and to all friends and family for their support

The photographic competition had a good response, three classes, under 11 years, 11 to 18 years and adults, prizes totalling £115 were in the form of Sainsbury's gift tokens funded by £112 from the Councillors' Community Grant Scheme, an end of scheme report has been sent to Braintree District Council.

The event held in October also gave a showing of the art film 'The River Runs Through Us' made by the Stour Valley Trust.

There was also a display of the Ely-Ouse Water Transfer system, which uses the River Stour to transfer water to Abberton and Hanningfield reservoirs, with Councillor David Porth on hand to explain the scheme to visitors.

Once again thank you to all those who baked and to all friends and family for their ongoing support.

The Village Hall Trustees decided to widen the scope of the photographic competition for 2019 entitling it 'Seasons on the Stour'

Together with St. Mary's Churchwarden and a Parish Councillor the Village Hall Charity, as part of the **World War 1 Centenary Remembrance** made a successful application to the Armed Services Covenant Fund Trust for three 'There but not There' silhouettes, these were placed in the church, on the seat by the War Memorial and the third one as part of a tableau in the Village Hall.

Again an end of grant report was submitted along with photographs of the Remembrance Service held at Sturmer.

This was very well attended and our thanks to Matthew Porth for his IT skills which enabled us to receive the Cenotaph Service at the Village Hall.

A television licence had to be obtained to allow this, taking out a weekly payment scheme which then had to be cancelled the following week!

Our thanks to Ruth and David Taylor for the excellent display of Second World War RAF memorabilia belonging to David's mother who served during that war, and to Sturmer Local History Group for their display of those commemorated on the Sturmer War Memorial. Biscuits and cakes from first world war recipes were served and many Village Hall Charity trustees were dressed of that period.

Our grateful thanks to **Sturmer Parish Council** for their **grant** which almost covered the cost of this years insurance premium.

The Village Hall Charity are members of the **Rural Community Council of Essex** and **Community Action Suffolk** through whom we arrange our insurance underwritten by Zurich.

Sturmer Village News 220 copies are printed quarterly, there is a shortfall in the income and expenditure, the four issues in 2018/19 cost £966 the income from advertisements totals £680 a difference of £286 which the Village Hall Charity has to absorb.

From feedback it would seem that the village news, delivered to every property in Sturmer, still provides information to villagers directly, the 'hits' on the Sturmer Community Hub are very few.

The Village Hall Charity would welcome help to deliver the village news, particularly to the houses from Water Lane/Hill Lane junction to Rowley Hill.

General maintenance, the rear courtyard is kept clear and tidy during the summer months, gutters are kept clear during the autumn.

The outside front requires painting this summer and we are awaiting a quotation. The front lobby is looking a little 'tired' and we will discuss this at our April meeting.

A review of our 1) Risk Assessment, 2) Equal Opportunities Policy, 3) Fire Precautions and Evacuation, 4) Child and Vulnerable Adults Policy 5) Data Protection Policy will also take place in April.

Forthcoming Events include a **Jazz Night on Saturday 18 May** with live band **Jazz Inc.** the ticket price of £12.50 includes a two course supper.

A Folk Night with the renowned live band **A Harp & a Monkey** on **Saturday 29 June** at a ticket price of £15 which will include a two course supper, this great band are travelling from Lancashire to be with us.

Tickets are available here tonight.

We propose to have an **Autumn Fashion Show**, again linking with **St. Nicholas Hospice**, provisional date **Friday 18 October** details to be confirmed.

And as mentioned the photographic competition which will be judged towards the end of the year.

The Charity Commission Annual Return is always sent within the time limit.

There are currently 6 trustees, representatives from Parish Council, Bowls Club, WI and 3 elected members one of whom is also St. Mary's Churchwarden.

We would welcome new trustees, and we are also fortunate that we have many who are willing to support the Village Hall without becoming a Trustee.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Thursday 4 July 2019 at 7:30pm** this will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the trustees to which everyone is welcome to attend. The next ordinary meeting of the Sturmer Village Hall Trustees will be Thursday 18 April.

APPENDIX F

Annual report of Sturmer Local History Group April 2019

Our annual meeting is in July and all are welcome. We will have some archives on display and do the usual business of the meeting such as appointing the Chairman and Secretary.

Since I last reported to you, we have met Nigel Hicks and his family for a guided tour of the heritage trail in the village and church. You will remember he is a descendant of William Hicks who was the Rector in Sturmer for many years and was at the Battle of Trafalgar. The family spent a long time in the church imagining William giving his sermons for 40 years. We had cleared the grave the day before their visit and they discovered a previously unknown ancestor there. They visited the village hall to see some of our archives and also The Old Rectory. Mr and Mrs Knight showed them round and gave them some history of the building.

We have recently been contacted by a member of the Dillistone family in Australia. Ezekiel Dillistone discovered the Sturmer Pippin apple in the garden of The Old Rectory and developed it at the nurseries which stood behind the site of The Gables which is now modern houses. We have exchanged information with his descendent and added to our archive on the Dillistones.

I also interviewed Mick Ward who is a cyclist and artist from Sturmer.

When we saw the Woodlands was boarded up we started a house history on the property. The house was built by a member of the Gurteen family who still live in

the village. It has been an important part of local life over the years and several people have given me information and photos for our archive.

A resident has given us the deeds for the Spinning Wheel (now Wheel Chase) and I have started a house history on that too.

A member of the history group gave us some interesting documents on Atterton and Ellis – most people will know the fire damaged buildings at the corner of Hamlet Road in Haverhill. I have made a document for us with extracts about Sturmer.

The firm started in the 1800s making lawnmowers and moved on to making machines to sharpen them.

It was taken over by the Boardman Brothers of Abbots Hall in Sturmer and they had their works where Silvergates at Roost End stands today.

Our document paints an interesting picture of life in Sturmer around the 1930s especially for the Boardman family.

There were a number of duplicates of the documents so these have been given to Haverhill and District Local History Group, Suffolk Records Office and Essex Records Office and we will keep a copy in the village hall archive room.

I will also offer the original of the Spinning Wheel deeds to ERO as they said at one time they were collecting them. We have been told that it is common practice now for solicitors to throw out deeds now all this information is held electronically.

We have attended talks about archaeology in Suffolk arising from installing infrastructure for wind farms and using tithe maps. We also attended a very interesting day in Clavering on Art in the First World War.

We hope to hold another Victorian Schoolroom event again for local schoolchildren in June and our annual trip out will be in October.

Apart from this we send a Records' Report to Suffolk Local History Council each year, we replace leaflets at our heritage boards and keep our archives updated annually with any additional information we have received.

Linda Bevan 2019

APPENDIX G

Sturmer Tree Warden Report for Sturmer Annual Parish Assembly 09/04/2019

Despite Radford Homes clearance of the undergrowth in the copse at Wheelchase (formerly Spinning Wheel site) I noted that a few Aconites survived to flower and at

present there are a few Narcissi. I have looked carefully and note a few Bluebells survive and I can only hope with the demise of Radford Homes, contractors will not be sent in to 'tidy' the growth as this is a sure way of eliminating the Bluebells which were such an important part of the tree preservation orders placed on the Spinning Wheel site.

Tree growth on the fruit trees planted under the 'scattered orchard' project on the amenity walk is increasing despite one tree having a limb torn off.

Further to the 'scattered orchard' project the Parish Council contacted Paul Read of Orchards East for further trees, as yet there has been no response, although I am informed of events held by Orchards East, largely dealing with pruning and of course fruit trees, events have been held at Wisbech, Stotfold, Much Hadham and Waldringfield.

The hedge along bridleway 20 has excellent spring growth, very pleasing as the hedge had early leaf fall last autumn due to the extremely dry weather.

Many thanks to Councillors Alan Carter and David Porth for the excellent pruning of the Yew trees around the Sturmer War Memorial.

The Tree Council launched an Ash Dieback Kit in February, as yet I have seen no strong evidence of Chalara in Sturmer.

Amanda Turburville, Ecology and Natural Environment Officer, Braintree District Council, sends the Tree Guardian a bi-monthly update from the Tree Council, only available online, which I am happy to forward to anyone wishing to receive.

Jo Porth, Sturmer Tree Warden 09/04/2019